

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct the minor informality cited in item 1 of the Office Action. It is believed that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No claims have been cancelled or added. Consequently, claims 1-17 are currently pending and under consideration.

In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-17 in item 3 of the Office Action, a Terminal Disclaimer has been enclosed with this response. Consequently, it is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

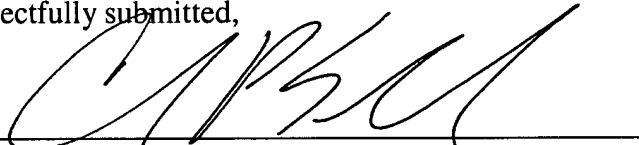
As a housekeeping matter, it should be noted that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) has been submitted with this response. The Applicants kindly request that the Examiner returns an initialed copy of the IDS form with the next communication from the Patent Office.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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